

Freedom Fence

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There are approximately 7 million dogs in the United Kingdom. Not all of them are perfectly behaved; nor are all their owners perfect either.

Many dogs have a strong natural tendency to stray; many owners are not able to spend all at their time with their dogs, much as they might wish to do so.

It is extremely difficult and/or extremely expensive to contain dogs with a strong wanderlust by means of a traditional fence; they can often dig under it, go through it or jump over it. To keep them safe, it is therefore, often necessary, however undesirable it may be, for dogs to be kept shut in the house, shut in a kennel or pen, or chained up for long periods.

For many years, the alternative has been to let them roam free, but this is no longer an option. It is no longer socially acceptable, even in rural areas, to allow dogs to stray: nor is it permitted, by law, and the Police, Dog Wardens and the Courts are enforcing the law ever more vigorously.

The solution is the Freedom Fence. The concept was invented in the United States some 25 years ago by a dog lover called Richard Peck who was horrified by the number of dogs being killed or wounded on America's highways

It works like this: an ordinary PVC-covered wire is laid around the boundary of the property (10 acres can easily be fenced in this way) and, if possible, the wire is buried one inch or so underground to prevent it being mown or tripped over.

A transmitter in the house or garage sends a radio signal permanently around the wire which must form a complete loop. There is no electricity in the wire and it can be cut with a spade without any danger. The dog wears a tiny receiver (which weighs just 1.9 ounces and can easily be worn by a cat) on his collar and this picks up a coded signal from the wire. The receiver used with the Freedom Fence cannot be activated by any other signal.

Once the system has been installed, it is time for the training to begin. This is very simple and doesn't take long BUT it is absolutely vital that it is carried out really well. Great emphasis is placed upon this in the Freedom Fence Installation & Training Manual which is supplied with each kit and our staff are always available to discuss the procedure over the telephone.

Ideally, the dog will be shut in at all times during the training period (which will most probably be completed within 7 to 10 days), except when training is being carried out. This is to ensure that he does not cross the wire.

A set of training flags is supplied by PetSafe and these are used during the training period to provide the dog with a visual boundary. These are gradually removed.

As the dog approaches the wire - on a lead and accompanied by his owner - he will enter the warning zone about 15 feet away (adjustable) and will hear a continuous warning sound from the receiver. The objective of the training is to ensure that as he hears that warning sound, he immediately turns back. It is, therefore, necessary for him to be allowed to proceed into the correction zone (about 5 feet from the wire) at which point he will

experience a mild static correction from the probes nestling against the skin of his neck. This correction is similar to the static electricity sometimes experienced from a car door or a lift button. It startles him, he doesn't like it and he won't want to experience it again, but it won't hurt him.

It is necessary to introduce him to the boundary all around the property and to get him to understand the meaning of the warning sound. Many young, intelligent dogs pick it up almost immediately and will require only two or three corrections; other, less biddable dogs may need to experience it a few more times before they are completely trained.

It is very important to understand that most dogs only need to receive the correction during training and never thereafter. A trained dog will not go anywhere near the wire and will not hear the warning sound let alone receive the correction.

It is also very important to realise that the strength of the correction received from a Freedom Fence receiver is less than one watt which is very mild indeed.

The chief benefits of a Freedom Fence are described by PetSafe as the 'Four Freedoms' and are as follows;

FREEDOM for the dog to enjoy the full extent of the garden throughout the day, and yet to be safe.

FREEDOM from stress for the owner. There is no need to worry about him straying, getting killed on the road or being shot by a farmer; nor is there a need to worry about him being shut in for too long if one has to be away for a few hours.

FREEDOM from nuisance for the neighbours. The half of the population which does not own a dog does not necessarily appreciate some of a dog's habits - like burying a bone in a flower bed.

FREEDOM from stray dogs for road users, The ultimate nightmare for a dog owner is that one's dog might cause an accident in which a driver or passenger is killed or wounded.

It is important to note the following additional point. about a Freedom Fence:

1. The system has been available in America for a quarter of a century and well over a million dogs are kept safe but free in that country.
2. The Freedom Fence has been subjected to the rigorous testing procedure of Underwriting Laboratories in the USA and has received UL approval - the only such system to have been approved in this way.
3. The system is designed for the benefit of the dog, not for the human. The dog is always free to avoid the correction by keeping to his boundaries and the opportunities for abuse are minimal.
4. As an added safety measure the correction cuts off automatically after 22 seconds and cannot commence again until after the receiver has been taken out of the correction zone.

5. Experience has shown that a Freedom Fence is effective on about 98% of properly trained dogs. If the purchaser of a Freedom Fence is unfortunate enough to own one of the 2% of dogs who have a temperament which makes the system ineffective - or if an owner feels, for any reason at all, that the system is unsuitable for his or her dog - then it may be returned to PetSafe at any time within two months and a full refund obtained, including the cost of the buried wire.

PetSafe firmly believe. that dogs are members of society, just as humans are, and that they have to obey society's rules in exactly the same way. The best way to ensure that a dog does not stray and risk injury, or cause nuisance or injury to others, is to install a Freedom Fence end so keep him safe but free.